JANUARY 14.

Dr. CHARLES SCHAEFFER in the chair.

Twenty-two persons present.

The death of J. Frank Knight, a member, was announced.

Pea-like Phosphorite from Polk Co., Florida.—Mr. EDW. GOLDSMITH stated that Mr. Jos. Willcox had received from Mr. E. R. Childers of Fort Meade, Fla., a specimen of rock which, it is stated, is about to be quarried for use as a fertilizer. The rock extends over a considerable area of territory that is tributary to Peace Creek, from the bottom of which stream a large amount of what is supposed to be phosphate of lime is now obtained by two companies operating there. It is essentially a phosphorite occurring in pea-like masses mixed with carbonate of lime, fragments of bones and shells, small pebbles of quartz and Limonite. Although the rock is brittle, a thin section was prepared for microscopic examination. This was accomplished by Mr. Lancaster Thomas in a way that is worth noting. The specimen was completely soaked with boiled Canada balsam prior to the grinding. The result was a transparent slide. There was observed, besides the above mentioned mixture, amorphous silica in which were imbedded acicular crystals of apatite.

The specific gravity was found to be 2·675. The rock cannot be considered rich in phosphoric acid. The latter, however, appears fairly disseminated through the whole mass. The pea-like globules were tested separately, together with fragments of bone and the dull brown-colored Limonite, phosphoric acid being found in each case. A quantitative determination of the acid has of course commercial interest but is out of the question here.

The name proposed for the rock was suggested by the pea-shaped globules. It may be considered as a variety of Phosphorite.

JANUARY 21.

The President, Dr. JOSEPH LEIDY, in the chair.

Nineteen persons present.

A paper entitled "On the Anatomy of Aerope caffra Fer.," by H. A. Pilsbry was presented for publication.

JANUARY 28.

Mr. J. H. REDFIELD in the chair.

Thirty persons present.